

**MINUTES OF THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE ECUA BOARD ROOM
AT 9255 STURDEVANT STREET, ELLYSON INDUSTRIAL PARK, PENSACOLA, FL**

Members present: Lois Benson, Chairman
Dale Perkins, Vice Chairman
Elvin McCorvey
Larry Walker

Members absent: Vicki Campbell

Counsel present: Bradley S. Odom

Staff present: Stephen E. Sorrell, Executive Director
Gabe Brown, Director of Customer Service
Nathalie Bowers, Public Information Officer
John Daane, Director of Information Technology
Tim Haag, Director of Government Affairs
Sharon Harrell, Executive Assistant
Bill Johnson, Director of Engineering
Jim Roberts, Public Information Officer
Patty Sheldon, Director of Finance

ITEM 1 – INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prior to calling the regular meeting of the Board to order, Mr. Perkins provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2 – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Benson called the regular meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

ITEM 3 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Sorrell advised that a revised page 13 was before the Board.

Dr. Walker added the topic of “weather” under Unfinished Business.

Chairman Benson added “plastic grocery bags” under Unfinished Business.

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. McCorvey, to adopt the agenda as presented and amended. Motion carried 4-0.

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ITEM 4 - PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings.

ITEM 5 - OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the audience.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 20, 2016, by Saltmarsh, Cleaveland and Gund.

Mr. David Lister and Ms. Allison Jones of Saltmarsh, Cleaveland and Gund presented the audit findings stating that it is a very clean audit and ECUA met all reporting parameters. Mr. Lister further made the Board aware of the decline in the availability of funds to budget operating and capital expenses as compared to previous years.

ITEM 7 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Dr. Walker, seconded by Mr. McCorvey, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 23, 2017, and the special Joint ECUA Board-BCC meeting of March 13, 2017 as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM 8 - OPERATIONAL ITEMS:

(a) **Selection of Consultant – SCADA Master Plan**

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. McCorvey to approve the proposed ranking by the Executive Director of the top three firms for development of the SCADA Maser Plan in the following order: Arcadis, CH2M, and Mott MacDonald, and authorize the Executive Director to conduct fee negotiations with the top-rated firms, and enter into a contract with one of the top-rated firms in accordance with the ECUA purchasing rules and guidelines, with funding from CIP Project CW025. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Sorrell clarified that he has reviewed all of the proposals that were submitted and agrees with the ranking.

(b) **Interlocal Agreement with Escambia County – Materials Recovery Facility**

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A motion was made by Dr. Walker, seconded by Mr. McCorvey, to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the ECUA and Escambia County to define the terms and conditions that will allow the ECUA to assume collection responsibility from the 11 drop-off locations and approve associated budget transfers as presented in the supporting data [of the first option]. Motion carried 4-0.

(c) Pensacola Beach WWTP Reject Storage Tank Painting

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. McCorvey to waive the bid requirement for the installation of the coating system for Pensacola Beach WWTP reject storage tank due to the condition of the tank and the schedule for the operational requirements of the Pensacola Beach WWTP, and approve issuance of the purchase order to K2 Mansfield Industrial, Pensacola, FL, as the lowest-cost proposal in the amount of \$173,656.00, with funding from the appropriate budget line item. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEM 9 - INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

None.

ITEM 10 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Sorrell presented the following report for information only and did not require action.

(a) Notification of Emergency Purchase – Pensacola Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant reject storage tank repairs

Mr. Sorrell reported that the average material value for recyclables being processed at the MRF is \$121.74 per ton. This is the highest it has been in quite a while and the MRF is paying for itself.

Mr. Sorrell informed the Board that, per its request, staff has pulled together a list of shovel-ready projects in anticipation of Federal funding becoming available. Staff has provided this list to Congressman Gaetz.

Mr. Sorrell provided an update on the compost facility, which is expanding another five and a half acres. The site is being cleaned in preparation for the application of the soil cement surface. Normally, the facility produces 2,000 tons per month; however, during this activity, the composting process is being suspended. Further, this has been a very successful project.

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Dr. Walker requested that staff let the Board know when the compost product is once again available.

ITEM 12 - ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Odom informed the Board that ECUA is gaining interest from other entities who wish to bring us their recyclables. It is our policy to execute an agreement with each entity, which takes considerable time. In the interest of helping the community, we are proceeding to accept the recycling, and the agreement will follow.

ITEM 13 - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) Dr. Walker read an article from the *Washington Post* related to extreme weather conditions the Gulf Coast may experience in the future due to the warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico, which could lead to explosive thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes.

(2) Chairman Benson stated that the League of Women Voters is aggressively working to reduce the use of plastic grocery bags. They specifically would like to pursue some measures regarding plastic grocery bags, and they are asking that ECUA look at providing some recyclable grocery bags with the ECUA logo on them. Chairman Benson stated that she spoke with Ms. Bowers and this suggestion is in the works and would be provided in conjunction with Earth Day and jointly with the County.

Ms. Carolyn Kolb, representing the League of Women Voters, addressed the Board providing detailed information regarding the use of plastic bags and other plastic products, and how these products are causing harm to the environment and wildlife in the United States and worldwide. Ms. Kolb stated she would like to see the community and State work together to bring about a huge campaign that would generate positive changes in this regard.

Chairman Benson stated it would be nice if Ms. Kolb would circulate her electronic information to each member and staff, as she would like to see a banner link placed on the ECUA web site.

Dr. Walker asked that staff look at the resolution adopted by the City of Pensacola and bring a similar endorsing resolution to the Board for approval. Mr. Odom advised that there is a Florida Statute that specifically states that local governmental entities cannot prohibit the use of plastic grocery bags; however, it would be appropriate for the Board to approve a document in which it states a policy the ECUA Board would like the legislature to consider.

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Chairman Benson stated that she feels this is something that the Board needs to act quickly on as the legislative session would soon be over.

ITEM 14 - NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCorvey addressed the Board stating that the ECUA should keep the auditor's report in mind during the upcoming budget season, in that we need to keep our funding at a level to accommodate the necessary projects that have been on hold for some time. Further, we need to ensure that during this next cycle of budgeting, that we have funds in there for needed projects and enough of a rate increase to accommodate those projects.

Dr. Walker stated that he thoroughly endorsed Mr. McCorvey's comments. Further, he takes no pride in the small rate increases approved for this year and feels the Board should consider larger increases.

Mr. Perkins stated that it's about meeting the needs of the people using our services and he will fairly evaluate the budget; however, he realizes that the citizens who are already having financial difficulties due to various increases in other areas need to be kept in mind. Further, he realizes there has to be increases and we have to provide good, basic infrastructure.

Responding to Chairman Benson, Mr. Sorrell indicated the members would be receiving budget documents beginning next month and that he has already provided the members with the fiscal year 2018 CIP listing.

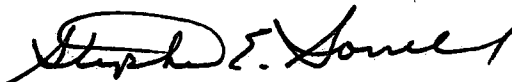
ITEM 15 - BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ITEM 16 - ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board, Chairman Benson declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen E. Sorrell
Executive Director and
Secretary

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APPROVED BY THE ECUA BOARD
IN REGULAR SESSION ON 04/27/17.

- (X) Without corrections/amendments.
- () With corrections/amendments being: